

TRANSLATION

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P800935/WO/1	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2004/012055	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 26.10.2004	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 05.11.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B60K28/06			
Applicant DAIMLERCHRYSLER AG			
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>			

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/012055

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

 - international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:
 pages 1-8 _____ as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:
 nos. 1-10 _____ as originally filed/furnished
 nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:
 sheets 1 _____ as originally filed/furnished
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.	PCT/EP2004/012055
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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
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1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1–10	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1–10	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1–10	YES
	Claims	_____	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

2. Reference is made to the following documents (the numbering follows the sequence in the search report):

D1: US-A-6 087 943
 D2: DE 20 42 853 A1
 D3: EP-A1-0 640 903
 D4: US-A-5 057 834
 D5: US-A-4 594 583
 D6: US-A-6 097 286
 D7: DE 197 02 383 A1

3. The application meets the requirements of PCT Article 33 relating to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability.

Closest prior art

Document D3 discloses a method and device as defined in the preambles of claims 1 and 8.

Differences

The differences are the features specified in the characterising parts of claims 1 and 8.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITYInternational application No.
PCT/EP2004/012055Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****Effect/technical problem**

The invention makes it possible to monitor the condition of the driver of a vehicle equipped with an active lane assistance system.

Inventive step

The solutions proposed in documents D1, D2, D4 and D5 are not suitable for the problem of interest because they involve the detection of steering movements. The detected steering movements could be caused by the lane assistance system itself, and hence the fact that there are steering movements does not necessarily mean that the driver is actively steering.

The solutions proposed in documents D6 and D7 likewise do not provide a reliable guarantee that the driver is alert, because a torque could also be applied by a driver who is not alert.

The aforementioned differences are not disclosed in any of the documents cited in the search report.

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Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

1. The application fails to meet the requirements of PCT Article 6 because claim 10 is not clear.

Claim 10 lacks the clarity required by PCT Article 6 because the "manual moment controller" is inadequately defined.